

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

May 4, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

A Council worksession of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Sally Geyer on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of City Hall, 11 LaFayette Street. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on April 30, 2009, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Sally Geyer, Dennis Nero, Thomas Farley, Steven Skok, Richard Gabler, Jr., Richard Dornisch, Sean Gabler, and City Manager David Greene.

VISITORS

Visitors included: Fred Haas, Joe Goetz, Warren Stewart, Ed Yahner, Joe Bologna, Richard Sadley, Doc Lyons, Michael Carlini, and Dan Hepner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
April 20, 2009

Sean Gabler made a motion to approve the minutes of April 20, 2009, seconded by Richard Dornisch, and all were in favor, except Dennis Nero who abstained.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
Ed Yahner,
Veolia Environmental
Services

Ed Yahner, from Veolia Environmental Services, was present to discuss garbage and recycling services. Mr. Yahner stated they do services for communities such as State College, Franklin, and Johnsonburg. The community bids out the garbage, recycling and bulk waste (clean-up day services). These services would be awarded to one hauler and that hauler would bill the resident for the services. He listed the following advantages: efficient service to the City; less traffic on streets; and reduce costs to the City.

Mayor Geyer asked if the low bidder would be the sole hauler for the City. Mr. Yahner responded yes.

Steven Skok asked if all residents would be paying the same fee no matter where they live in the City. Ed Yahner stated the fee would be decided by the City (i.e. senior citizen rate, reduced amount for less baggage, etc.). He noted Veolia would structure the bid documents to what services the City decides to have done.

Richard Gabler inquired if the City could select which items would be recycled. Mr. Yahner responded that would be the City's choice.

Richard Dornisch expressed his concerns regarding having only a single hauler. He felt there should be competition.

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Thomas Farley was in favor of going out for bids and noted he preferred one hauler instead of three haulers going down a street to service a handful of residents.

Thomas Farley suggested in one of the documents, it could state, the City would receive all the complaints and that the hauler would be responsible for all billing and collections.

Sean Gabler noted there would be a savings for the City. He stated recycling, fall and spring clean-up days, leaf collection in some instances, and compositing would also be included.

Manager Greene stated, at the present, the City has \$101,520. budgeted for recycling and clean-up days. The City would save 1/2 mill a year.

After further discussion, Thomas Farley made a motion that the City Manager and staff put together a bid sheet for Council's review whenever it is completed, seconded by Sean Gabler, and all were in favor.

Steven Skok requested that the Recycling Committee also be involved.

Liz Boni
re: Woodlins Project

Liz Boni updated Council on the Woodlins Project. Ms. Boni stated a grant was received to place wood sculptures within the City which will consist of two benches, a large carving depicting early settlers, and one for the Elk Creek Park. The carvings will be created at the Appalachian Arts Studio and will begin immediately.

Manager Greene noted the two benches will be placed in the diamond area facing Railroad Street replacing the old ones.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION
Award Bid
Sidewalk Bid

The following two sidewalk bids were opened at a public meeting on April 20, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall:

D'Amore Outdoor Services, St. Marys, PA

\$4.26 $\frac{4''}{\text{sq. ft.}}$ \$4.98 $\frac{6''}{\text{sq. ft.}}$

Krug Contracting, Kersey, PA

\$6.75 $\frac{4''}{\text{sq. ft.}}$ \$8.75 $\frac{6''}{\text{sq. ft.}}$

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Ted Polinski, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, recommended that the sidewalk bid be awarded to D'Amore Outdoor Services for both the 4" and 6" sidewalks.

Richard Gabler made a motion to award the sidewalk bid, per recommendation, to D'Amore Outdoor Services, seconded by Tom Farley, and all were in favor.

Apollo Theatre
re: Parking Meters

Manager Greene recommended that the City adjust the time on the parking meters in the downtown area to 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Movie goers will still be plugging the meters until 9:00 p.m. for the 7:00 p.m. showing. No finances will be lost, in fact more meters will be used in the evening.

After a discussion, Council decided to change the time on the parking meters to 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. An Ordinance will be prepared and submitted to Council.

Consider for Adoption
Resolution No. 09-15
re: Use of PennDOT
On-Line Services

Resolution No. 09-15 was presented whereby the City will agree to use the dotGrants on-line reporting system to file the required Liquid Fuels forms annually, including but not limited to the MS-965, MS-329, and MS-999 forms.

Steven Skok made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 09-15, seconded by Richard Dornisch, and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION
Memo from Planning
Commission re:
Typographical and
Logical Zoning Ord.
revisions

Thomas Farley explained that a memo dated April 15th was received from the Planning Commission regarding typographical and logical zoning ordinance revisions. The same memo was received about a month and a half prior regarding the changes the Planning Commission felt needed to be made to the current Ordinance Book.

Mr. Farley stated he did respond to the first memo with written comments to the Planning Commission regarding Item No. 3 on the list and they agreed with the recommendation he pointed out to them.

Richard Gabler noted that Item No. 2 and No. 6 are correct in his ordinance book.

Item No. 18 was also discussed which requires a building permit to erect a fence. The Planning Commission questioned if a fence is a structure or not and does it require a permit?

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It was noted that the definition of a structure states a fence is a structure but it also stated a structure shall not include such things as a fence. The definition of a structure needs clarified.

Thomas Farley read the definition of a fence from his book, "A fence is a structure designed as a barrier to restrict the movement or view of persons, animals, property, and/or vehicles. This definition shall not include ornamental fence treatments that are located in the front yard and extend less than one-half the width and/or depth of the front yard."

Thomas Farley felt a fence is a structure and requires a building permit.

Thomas Farley suggested that Matt Pfeufer go back to the Planning Commission and have the commission contact Harry Roth, Consultant, as to whether a fence is a structure or not. (Nos. 1 and 18).

After a discussion, Manager Greene suggested that the Consultant Harry Roth be contacted to make all the necessary changes.

Airport Authority
Letter from Victor
Straub, Chairman

A letter was received from Victor Straub, Chairman of the Airport Authority, noting that the Authority has received notice that they have been selected to receive a RBEG Grant in the amount of \$37,570. This grant was requested to cover the costs for the restaurant renovation. The Authority is asking the City of St. Marys to advance a loan to the Airport Authority for this amount. The grant money will not be available until late June of this year. The Authority would use the loan money to pay current invoices that they are presently being charged finance charges. The Airport Authority would pay the loan back to the City immediately upon receipt of the grant money.

Dennis Nero noted he does not see a letter from RBEG stating the Authority was awarded the grant.

Joe Bologna,
Airport Manager

Joe Bologna, Airport Manager, explained that the Authority was selected to submit a grant application and that the formal application will be submitted tomorrow.

Thomas Farley stated he spoke with Carol Muhitch, Finance Director, last week. She did not know where the City could come up with \$37,570. Ms. Muhitch stated that she would not want Council to

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commit any funds, at this time, until the City receives revenue from taxes which will be sometime next week. She was concerned that our tax revenue may be coming up short of the budgeted amount. City Council and management may have to make cuts to stay within the budget come December 31st of this year. Mr. Farley stated, per Ms. Muhitch's recommendation, Council should wait until perhaps the next meeting at the earliest as to whether the City could commit any funds.

Dennis Nero noted the letter from RBEG stated "In anticipation of receiving FY 2009 Rural Business Enterprise Grant funds, the following projects were selected for processing up to the point of grant approval". Mr. Nero stated the letter does not say the grant was approved.

A decision was postponed until the next meeting.

Dennis Nero requested that an approval letter be received from RBEG.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Dennis Nero referred to a "Letter to the Editor" in the Daily Press concerning burnt out buildings. Mr. Nero stated he has been after the Manager and the City Solicitor for at least seven months to prepare an ordinance to address these concerns.

Dennis Nero stated a couple of meetings ago, he and Councilman Dornisch had a heated argument and that discussion was because of Mr. Dornisch's actions and not that he was opposed to changing the Sign Ordinance.

Thomas Farley also commented on the "Letter to the Editor". In order to take down any existing burnt out buildings, the City needs "X" number of dollars to be able to do that and the property needs to be titled to the City or otherwise the City would be trespassing. Multi things need to be in place before the City can tear down buildings. Also, the owners of the buildings may not have the money to tear down their buildings. Unless someone in the City wants to start a campaign to assist the City in the demolition of burnt out buildings, the City is sort of handicapped in what they can do. Mr. Farley stated the only other solution is to raise taxes but he is sure the people will not want that to happen.

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Manager Greene explained the cause of the Take Two Video building fire is still being investigated by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. The owner of the building downtown offered the City the building, but the City cannot get the title until the bankruptcy judge makes a ruling. The owners of a home on Brusselles Street that burnt are in the process of a divorce so nothing can be done until the judge makes a ruling. The Manager also noted about \$7,000. was spent to deal with the glass falling off of the building in the downtown because of safety issues.

Executive Session

An Executive Session will be held immediately following adjournment regarding personnel issues. No decisions will be made.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Geyer made the following announcements:

- Next Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
- City's Spring Clean-up Day will be held on May 16, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Electronics recycling and plastic collections will also be held on May 16, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Thomas Farley made a motion to adjourn the meeting.



 Mayor



 Recording Secretary